



The image is a screenshot of the American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) website. At the top, there is a blue header with the text "AMERICAN YOUTH POLICY FORUM" and "BRIDGING YOUTH POLICY, PRACTICE, AND RESEARCH". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "About Us", "What's New", "Program Areas", "Events", and "Publications". The main content area features a "Trip Report" section with the title "How New York City is Meeting the Varied Needs of Out-of-School Youth through Multiple Pathways to Graduation". Below the title is a small photograph of a group of people, and a subtitle reads "An American Youth Policy Forum Field Trip — December 6-7, 2007".

Site Visit to John Adams High School Young Adult Borough Center (YABC)

John Adams YABC is a late afternoon and evening program, which opened in fall 2005 and was designed to serve older students (17.5-21 years old) who have been in high school for at least four years and have earned at least 17 high school credits. The YABC operates in partnership with Queens Community House (QCH), a local settlement house, a neighborhood-based organization that provides services and activities designed to identify and reinforce the strengths of individuals, families, and communities. The YABC has an ongoing enrollment of 250-300 students who are working to earn a high school diploma. Participants were greeted by Assistant Principal Edita Volovodovskaya, who stressed the real cooperation that existed between the YABC and Queens Community House. The YABC addresses students' diverse learning styles through project-based learning, technology-based programs, the ability to submit work online, and to acquire entrepreneur training, such as music production skills. The academic program includes core classes, Regents preparatory classes, College Now, Academic Accelerated Studies Center, Independent Studies option, Learning to Work, Community Action Program, Friday Program, and Saturday School. Afternoon and evening classes are provided up to 6 days a week with three, 1½ hour classes offered per night, so that "school" runs from 4:20 – 8:52pm. The YABC is a program, not a school, and thus students transfer into the program and then back to their home school for graduation, once they have completed their requirements. There is an emphasis on creating community, through all the staff being available to students and participation in an online student community. The flexibility of the online component of the school allows many students whose schedules no longer permit them to be on campus to stay on track to graduation. They can do make-up work but they still must attend to fulfill the 54 hour seat requirement. The assistant director of Queens Community House reiterated that the program offers a "Primary Person Model" with each counselor provided by the QCH having a caseload of 45-50 students. Staff meet with each student individually once a month, and are also available for consultation in the interim and to assist students with career plans. QCH pays students minimum wage as they conduct their internships, which take place at local businesses. Students unready for the work experience can participate in on-site internships, which are more nurturing, such as MouseSquad, which helps to repair computers on campus. Through the Learning to Work program, students attend work readiness seminars to prepare for their internship experiences. Participants heard from a panel of students, who shared the difference between their previous high schools and the YABC: their former institutions were overcrowded, and students needed an appointment to consult with a counselor. At the YABC, "they concentrate on you," and "you can discuss personal issues with a counselor." Many students stressed that this was "a second chance for me," and "it gets you ready for the future, career-wise." They liked schedules that accommodated their varied commitments and permitted them to take exactly the classes they needed. Students shared postsecondary plans focused on going to college to pursue various degrees.

<http://www.aypf.org/tripreports/2007/tr120607.htm>